

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A program storage device readable by a computer, the medium tangibly
2 embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform
3 a method for providing a two-step communication scheme, the method comprising:
4 establishing for a first process exclusive access to a mailslot in a mailbox shared
5 by a plurality of processes; and
6 accessing the mailslot by the first process to modify the contents of the mailslot to
7 facilitate inter-process communication.

1 2. The program storage device of claim 1 wherein the mailslot comprises
2 header having an operation code and a parameter region interpreted according to the
3 operation code.

1 3. The program storage device of claim 1 wherein the first process comprises
2 a caller and wherein the accessing the mailslot by the first process to modify the contents
3 of the mailslot further comprises placing content into the mailslot by a caller.

1 4. The program storage device of claim 3 wherein the placing content into
2 the mailslot by the caller comprises a remote procedure call.

1 5. The program storage device of claim 1 wherein the first process comprises
2 a callee and wherein the accessing the mailslot by the first process to modify the contents
3 of the mailslot further comprises placing results from the callee into the mailslot by a
4 callee.

1 6. The program storage device of claim 1 further comprising notifying a
2 second process to check the mailslot and releasing exclusive access by the first process to
3 the mailslot.

1 7. The program storage device of claim 6 further comprising:
2 establishing for a second process exclusive access to the mailslot; and
3 accessing the mailslot by the second process to retrieve the contents of the
4 mailslot to facilitate inter-process communication.

1 8. A mailbox for providing a two-step communication scheme, comprising a
2 shared memory configured for establishing at least one mailslot, access to a mailslot
3 being granted exclusively to a first process for modification of contents of the mailslot to
4 facilitate inter-process communication.

1 9. The mailbox of claim 8 wherein the mailslot comprises a header having an
2 operation code and a parameter region interpreted according to the operation code.

1 10. The mailbox of claim 8 wherein the first process comprises a caller, the
2 caller accessing the mailslot by placing content into the mailslot.

1 11. The mailbox of claim 10 wherein the content comprises a remote
2 procedure call.

1 12. The mailbox of claim 8 wherein the first process comprises a callee, the
2 callee accessing the mailslot for placing into the mailslot.

1 13. The mailbox of claim 8 further being configured for exclusive access of
2 the mailslot by a second process after the first process notifies the second process to
3 check the mailslot and releases exclusive access to the mailslot.

1 14. A system, comprising:
2 a first process;
3 a second process;
4 a mailbox, disposed between the first and second process, the mailbox comprising
5 a shared memory configured for establishing at least one mailslot, access to a mailslot
6 being granted exclusively to the first process for modification of contents of the mailslot
7 to facilitate inter-process communication.

1 15. The system of claim 8 wherein the mailslot comprises a header having an
2 operation code and a parameter region interpreted according to the operation code.

1 16. The system of claim 8 wherein the first process comprises a caller, the
2 caller accessing the mailslot by placing content into the mailslot.

1 17. The system of claim 10 wherein the content comprises a remote procedure
2 call.

1 18. The system of claim 8 wherein the first process comprises a callee, the
2 callee accessing the mailslot for placing into the mailslot.

1 19. The system of claim 8 wherein the mailbox is configured for exclusive
2 access of the mailslot by the second process after the first process notifies the second
3 process to check the mailslot and releases exclusive access to the mailslot.

1 20. A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:
2 a plurality of processes, the plurality of processes comprising a database manager
3 for managing performance data, an application server for collecting performance data and
4 providing a client interface for establishing service level agreements, a SLA core for
5 analyzing data and controlling actions based on service level agreements and policy and a
6 performance monitor daemon for communicating with remote I/O service gateways to
7 collect data and send throttling requests; and
8 a shared memory forming a mailbox, the mailbox being used for a two-step
9 communication scheme between a first process and a second process, the mailbox
10 configured for establishing at least one mailslot, access to a mailslot being granted
11 exclusively to a first process for modification of contents of the mailslot to facilitate
12 inter-process communication.

1 21. The SLA server of claim 20 wherein the mailslot comprises a header
2 having an operation code and a parameter region interpreted according to the operation
3 code.

1 22. The SLA server of claim 20 wherein the first process comprises a caller,
2 the caller accessing the mailslot by placing content into the mailslot.

1 23. The SLA server of claim 22 wherein the content comprises a remote
2 procedure call.

1 24. The SLA server of claim 20 wherein the first process comprises a callee,
2 the callee accessing the mailslot for placing into the mailslot.

1 25. The SLA server of claim 20 wherein the mailbox is configured for
2 exclusive access of the mailslot by the second process after the first process notifies the
3 second process to check the mailslot and releases exclusive access to the mailslot.

1 26. A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:
2 a processor configured for providing a plurality of processes; and
3 memory configured for forming a mailbox, the mailbox being used for a two-step
4 communication scheme between a first process and a second process;
5 wherein the processor establishes at least one mailslot in the mailbox and grants
6 access to a mailslot exclusively to a first process for modification of contents of the
7 mailslot to facilitate inter-process communication.

1 27. A method for providing a two-step communication scheme, comprising:
2 establishing for a first process exclusive access to a mailslot in a mailbox shared
3 by a plurality of processes; and
4 accessing the mailslot by the first process to modify the contents of the mailslot to
5 facilitate inter-process communication.

1 28. A mailbox for providing a two-step communication scheme, comprising a
2 shared memory means configured for establishing at least one means for storing mail,
3 access to a means for storing mail being granted exclusively to a first process means for
4 modification of contents of the means for storing mail to facilitate inter-process
5 communication.

1 29. A system, comprising:
2 first process means;
3 second process means;
4 mailbox means comprising a shared memory, disposed between the first and
5 second process means, configured for establishing at least one means for storing mail,
6 access to means for storing mail being granted exclusively to the first process means for
7 modification of contents of the means for storing mail to facilitate inter-process
8 communication.

1 30. A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:

2 plurality of process means, the plurality of process means comprising means for

3 managing performance data in a database, application server means for collecting

4 performance data and providing a client interface for establishing service level

5 agreements, means for analyzing data and controlling actions based on service level

6 agreements and policy and a means for communicating with remote I/O service gateways

7 to collect data and send throttling requests; and

8 memory means forming a mailbox, the memory means being used in a two-step

9 communication scheme between a first process means and a second process means, the

10 memory means establishing at least one means for storing mail, access to means for

11 storing mail being granted exclusively to a first process means for modification of

12 contents of the means for storing mail to facilitate inter-process communication.